

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1 through 10 are pending in the application.

The title of the invention has been amended, as suggested by the Examiner. The Applicants sincerely appreciate the Examiner's suggestion regarding the title.

Please note that elastic waistband 155 is described in paragraph 0017 of the as filed application and band 255 is described in paragraph 0018 of the as filed application.

Regarding paragraph 3 of page 2 of the Office Action, the Applicants do not understand the issue with the disclosure. If the disclosure is deemed insufficient, the Examiner is respectfully requested to further explain the basis for the objection.

Claims 1, 2 and 4 through 10 stand rejected based on Johnson. Claim 1 recites a "sanitary pad." A sanitary pad is a well understood term and is designed for a woman's monthly menses. In contrast, Johnson is directed to a panty for a baby and does not disclose a sanitary pad. Johnson is designed as a receptacle for urine and feces, not for a woman's monthly menses.

In addition, Claim 1 recites that the front portion and the rear portion do not include padding. In contrast, in Johnson, the front portion and rear portion included padding, as clearly shown by figures 1 and 2 of Johnson. This is also indicated by figure 3 of Johnson, which shows Johnson's panty before it is sewed together. It is clear from figure 3 that a large portion of the front portion and rear portion of Johnson contains padding.

It is thus respectfully submitted that Claim 1 defines an invention which is clearly distinguishable from Johnson.

It is noted that the lack of padding on the front portion and rear portion is an important feature of the present invention because the present invention is designed to be attractive and not bulky so that it does not show under a woman's clothing.

Claim 1 stands rejected under Titone.

Claim 1 has been amended to further define the invention. Amended Claim 1 recites that the front portion is made of satin-like or silk-like material and that the rear portion is made of satin-like or silk-like material. These features are discussed, for example, in paragraph 0003 of the as filed application. These features are important because it allows the present invention to be attractive and sexy.

In contrast, the panty of Titone is made from open mesh, thin, cheese-cloth, as discussed at the top of column 2 of the Titone patent.

It is thus respectfully submitted that amended Claim 1 is distinguishable over Titone.

It is noted that the Southwell patent is cited by the Examiner merely against dependent Claim 3, which is directed to a bikini-style undergarment.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone (Rhonda A. Smith, 202-672-5431) if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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